

**>> With only five enforcement officers to cover the entire state, do they frequently interact with other law enforcement agencies throughout the state?**

We encourage our officers to have a working relationship, especially with sheriffs' offices and local emergency management. That's not a problem. In most cases they like associating with their peers. Most of them are very knowledgeable about who the sheriffs are, who the deputies are and who to call.

We don't hear a lot from local law enforcement directly. For the most part, if we get the complaint here, we go to them with it because they probably have already had the complaint and investigated it. There's no point in us doing it again if it's unfounded. But, we respond anytime we get a complaint. The only ones we usually do not respond to are the anonymous complaints. If the person is serious enough, they should be able to give us contact information so our officer can go

to them and say, "Show me, tell me what I'm looking for." There have been cases where they just wouldn't, but it seemed serious enough that we did investigate. By and large, our process is: The complaint is logged in, it is assigned to the area supervisor and then to the officer. Their first contact is with local law enforcement in the area, either the animal control officer or sheriff's office to ask if they know about the complaint and how they can help them.

Our officers have all been trained in body condition scoring. At least some of them have been to the Horse Council's training offered together with Kentucky Cattleman's Association, which is mostly offered to animal control officers who have no experience with livestock, to give them some basic knowledge of what they're looking at. The training helps them evaluate if what they see is abuse or if it is just the way cattle look.

**What is the OSV's role in Kentucky's special events that pertain to animals/livestock? What are the biggest events hosted by Kentucky?**

The granddaddy of them all was the World Equestrian Games, but that's history now, and it went well. But, the Kentucky State Fair and the North American International Livestock Exposition are the largest annually. There will be as many as 15,000 animals at the NAILE. At the state fair, we are probably in excess of 5,000 animals.

There are a couple other large events in the spring: Dairy National, Beef Expo and sheep and goat shows. There is an alpaca/llama show — we work all of those. Some of the local fairs even are pretty big. Those kind of things are obviously a priority.

The horse park is continuous. We have a presence there, but not totally during the winter when not so much is going on. With the new facilities they now have, there will be something going on most all the time. You think about the WEG being big, and we had 800 to 900 horses on the grounds for that event. However, we routinely,

◀ Dr. Robert Stout has served as the Kentucky State Veterinarian since 2004. He has made a big push for the investigators with the Division of Animal Health to be properly equipped for whatever they may face on the job.

